



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

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Tax Fraud Investigators Stop Fraudulent Personal Income Tax Returns Worth Nearly \$1.8 Million

SANTA FE – State Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today warned New Mexicans against potential identity theft rings that have unsuccessfully tried to cash in over \$1.77 million in fraudulent tax refunds. The Department's tax fraud investigators so far have stopped about 900 fraudulent personal income tax returns for 2011 totaling over \$1.77 million.

"It's that time of the year again when criminal enterprises prey on innocent citizens by stealing their identities and then filing fraudulent tax returns on their behalf," said Secretary Padilla. "We're requesting taxpayers to be extra vigilant during this tax season and contact us immediately if they suspect their personal information has been stolen or compromised."

Since this tax season began on Jan. 19, about 900 fraudulent personal tax returns were filed by individuals living in and outside New Mexico, requesting refunds totaling \$1.77 million. The Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division stopped all those refunds from being paid out.

"We've implemented several security and audit measures to track and closely monitor these schemes. However, the best deterrent to stop these schemes is the taxpayers' vigilance and awareness by closely monitoring their personal finances to ensure they have not fallen victim to identity theft," said Secretary Padilla.

An individual's identity may have been stolen if he or she receives a letter from the Internal Revenue Service indicating more than one tax return was filed and the wages are from an unknown employer.

"If you receive such a letter from the IRS, leading you to believe your identity has been stolen, respond immediately to the name, address or phone number on the IRS notice. If you believe the notice is not from the IRS, contact the IRS to determine if the letter is a legitimate IRS notice," said Secretary Padilla.

To report tax fraud, please call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.